



**Pacific Northwest Region
Regional Office**

Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building
1220 S.W. 3rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97204 www.fs.usda.gov/r6

News Release

Contact: Glen Sachet, 503-808-2790

May 26, 2015

New Forest Supervisor Named for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest

PORTLAND, Ore. The Pacific Northwest Region's top Forester, Jim Peña, announced the selection of Gina Owens today as the new Forest Supervisor on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Owens, who previously worked on the Packwood Ranger District in 1988, returns to the area starting her new position, July 6, 2015.

"It is my pleasure to announce the selection of Gina Owens as the new Forest Supervisor," said Peña. "Her skills and background serve as an outstanding complement to the needs and current direction of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Gina's experience building and nurturing relationships, managing recreation areas and natural resources, and encouraging an inclusive work environment are well matched to the forest, as well as its community and partners and I am confident she will do an outstanding job."

Owens is currently the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Umpqua National Forest in Roseburg, Oregon. Gina has a wealth of experience in managing natural resources and people in both line and staff positions. She has served in positions at the district and forest level in Regions 1, 6, 9 and 10, and at the national level in Washington, D.C. Her background includes assignments managing recreation areas, forest planning, and legislative affairs with many special assignments including acting Forest Supervisor of the Willamette National Forest. Gina has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Wildland Recreation Management from Washington State University.

"This forest is very special to me as I had my first seasonal position there over twenty-five years ago; it's the forest that started my career and love of managing landscapes" said Owens. "I really enjoy working in a collaborative fashion with people to resolve issues and accomplish great things on the landscape, so I am looking forward to getting to know the people and communities in and near the Forest. There are so many great relationships established and I am eager to get involved in the wide variety of issues and opportunities across the Forest."

Owens succeeds current Forest Supervisor Janine Clayton who has served in the role since 2008. Clayton will be retiring next month after more than 32 years of Federal Service, the vast majority of which was with the USDA Forest Service. The region is greatly appreciative of the work that the Forest has achieved with the collaborative groups, partners, communities, volunteers and the public under Clayton's guidance, according to Peña.



for the greatest good

-more-

NEWS RELEASE

(continued)

“Janine has really been a team player across the board in addressing issues on our public lands,” said Peña. “She has served as a mentor and an extension of our Regional Forester team in many circumstances including incident management of fire and other events. She has been an invaluable team member who will be greatly missed.”

In her parting words, Clayton expressed gratitude to the employees of the Gifford Pinchot and to the community.

“I want to thank everyone who has made this experience so rewarding and a great way to end my career,” said Clayton. “I am excited about the next wave of leadership on the forest, lots of good thinking and energy to move the Gifford Pinchot into the work of the future, growing the opportunities to do more work on the landscape level.”

The Pacific Northwest Region consists of 16 National Forests, 59 District Offices, a National Scenic Area, and a National Grassland. These management units comprise 24.7 million acres in Oregon and Washington and employ approximately 3,550 employees.

Headquartered in Vancouver, Washington, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest manages 1.37 million acres of public land including nearly 200,000 acres of Wilderness in Southwest Washington.

###